

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 28, 2009, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1 and 3-30 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants are canceling claims 25, 27 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 24, 26, 28 and 30 have been amended. As a result, claims 1, 3-24, 26, 28 and 30 are pending for examination with claims 1, 24, 26, and 30 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-23 and for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 25 and 29. The Office Action states that claims 25 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected independent claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lewis et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,797,043 ("Lewis") in view of George et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,785,829 ("George") further in view of Horning, U.S. Patent No. 5,420,998 ("Horning"). Applicants respectfully disagree. However, without acceding to the appropriateness of the rejection and only to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 24 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of allowable claim 25. Claim 25 has been cancelled. As a result, claim 24 should be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected claims 26-30 (including independent claims 26 and 30) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lewis in view of Garcia et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,433,785 ("Garcia") further in view of George. Applicants respectfully disagree. However, without acceding to the appropriateness of the rejection and only to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 26 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of allowable claim 29 and intervening claim 27. Dependent claims 29 and 27 have been

canceled. As a result, claim 26 should be in condition for allowance. Claim 28 depends from claim 26 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

Similarly, without acceding to the appropriateness of the rejection and only to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 30 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of allowable claim 29 and the intervening claim 27. As a result, claim 30 should be in condition for allowance.

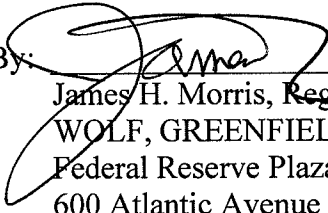
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representative at the telephone number indicated below to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825 under Docket No. S1022.81044US00 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 23, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
James H. Morris, Reg. 34,681
WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.
Federal Reserve Plaza
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
Tel: 617.646.8000